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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Koji OGATA  
Serial No. : (U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP03/04138  
              Filed March 31, 2003)  
Filed : (Concurrently herewith)  
For : BONDING STRUCTURE FOR REFRACtORY  
          SLEEVE DEFINING INNER HOLE OF  
          CONTINUOUS CASTING NOZZLE  
Group Art Unit : (Not yet known)  
Examiner : (Not yet known)

September 29, 2004  
New York, New York

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450,  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows: